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BOSTON
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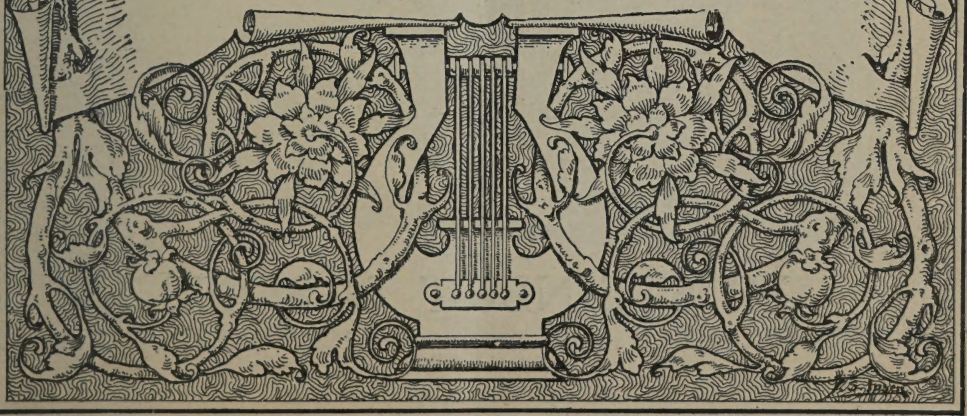
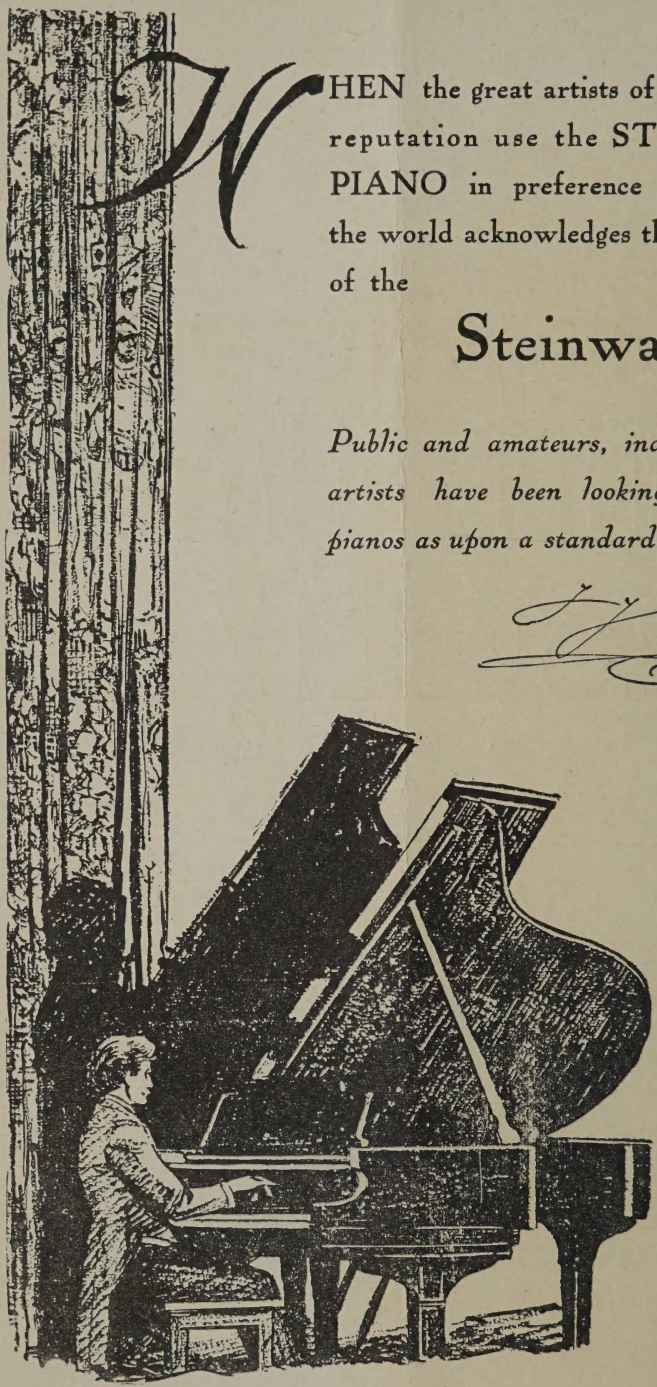
THE MESSIAH

DECEMBER 17-18, 1922

Nos. 12-13





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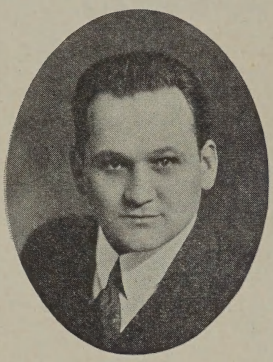

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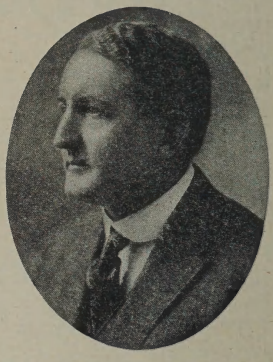
MERLE ALCOCK



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GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL

Born in Halle, February 23, 1685 Died in London, April 13, 1759

THE MESSIAH

ORATORIO, composed in 1741; begun August 22, finished September 14. Text selected from the Scriptures by CHARLES JENNENS. Produced in Dublin, April 13, 1742, under the direction of HANDEL. Additional accompaniments by MOZART, 1789; and by ROBERT FRANZ, for the use of the Handel and Haydn Society, completed and published in 1884. First performance by the Handel and Haydn Society, December 25, 1818, in Boylston Hall; present performances 145th and 146th.

PART ONE

THE PROPHECIES AND THE FULFILMENT.

I

OVERTURE

grave: fuga, allegro moderato

2–3

TENOR RECITATIVE

Comfort ye my people, saith your God: speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

AIR

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

4

CHORUS

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed; and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

5

BASS RECITATIVE

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come; the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple; even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

8–9

ALTO RECITATIVE

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and shall call his name EMMANUEL God with us.

AIR AND CHORUS

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid: say unto the cities of Judah, Behold, your God. Arise; shine; for thy light is come; and the glory of the Lord is risen upon see.

10–11

BASS RECITATIVE

For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

AIR

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them the light shined.

12

CHORUS

For unto us a child is born: unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful; Counsellor; the Mighty God; the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.

PASTORAL SYMPHONY

larghetto

(on the traditional air of the Calabrian pifferari)

14–15–16–17

SOPRANO RECITATIVE

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

CHORUS

Glory to God in the highest; and peace on earth, good will towards men.

18

SOPRANO AIR

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion: shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior; and He shall speak peace unto the heaven.

19–20

ALTO RECITATIVE

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped: then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

ALTO AND SOPRANO AIR

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom; and gently lead those that are with young. . . . Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take this yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

21

CHORUS

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

INTERMISSION 10 MINUTES

PART TWO

THE PASSION AND THE TRIUMPH

23

ALTO AIR

He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

24–26

CHORUS

Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions: He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned every one to his own way: and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

29–30

TENOR RECITATIVE

Thy rebuke hath broken His heart: He is full of heaviness. He looked for some to have pity on Him; but there was no man; neither found He any to comfort Him.

AIR

Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow.

33

CHORUS

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

40

BASS AIR

Why do the nations so furiously rage together; and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed.

42–43

TENOR RECITATIVE

He that dwelleth in Heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

AIR

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

44

CHORUS

Hallelujah! For the lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. HALLELUJAH!

PART THREE

THE RESURRECTION AND THE GLORY

45

SOPRANO AIR

I know that my Redeemer liveth; and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

50–51

BASS RECITATIVE

Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

AIR

The trumpet shall sound; and the dead shall be raised incorruptible; and we shall be changed.

CHORUS

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.
Amen! Amen!

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

Vol. I. 1815 to May, 1890.

Vol. II, No. 1. May, 1890 to May, 1897. Including lists of concerts and officers from May, 1890, to May, 1912.

Vol. II, No. 2. May, 1897, to May, 1903. Written by William F. Bradbury.

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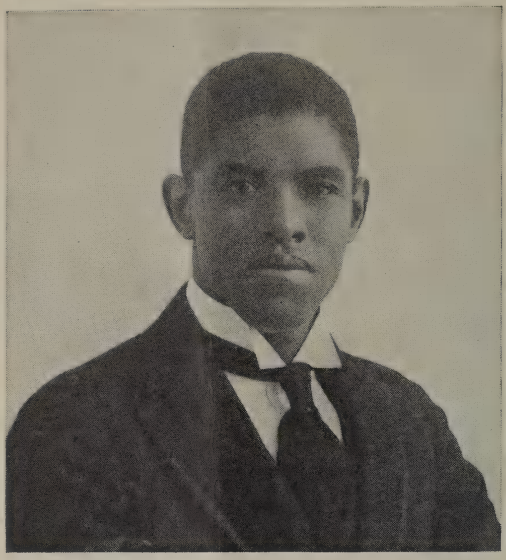

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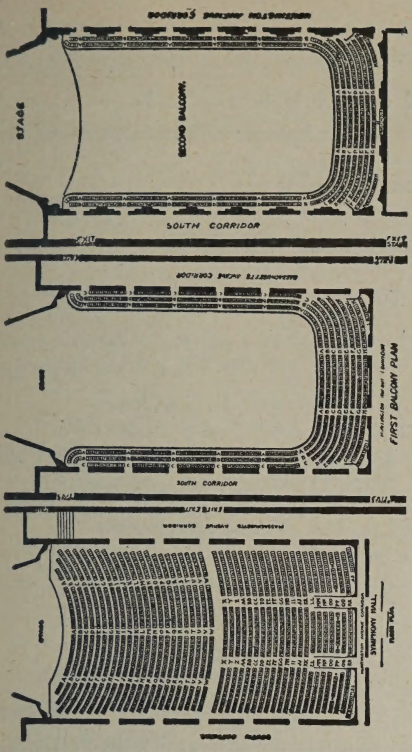

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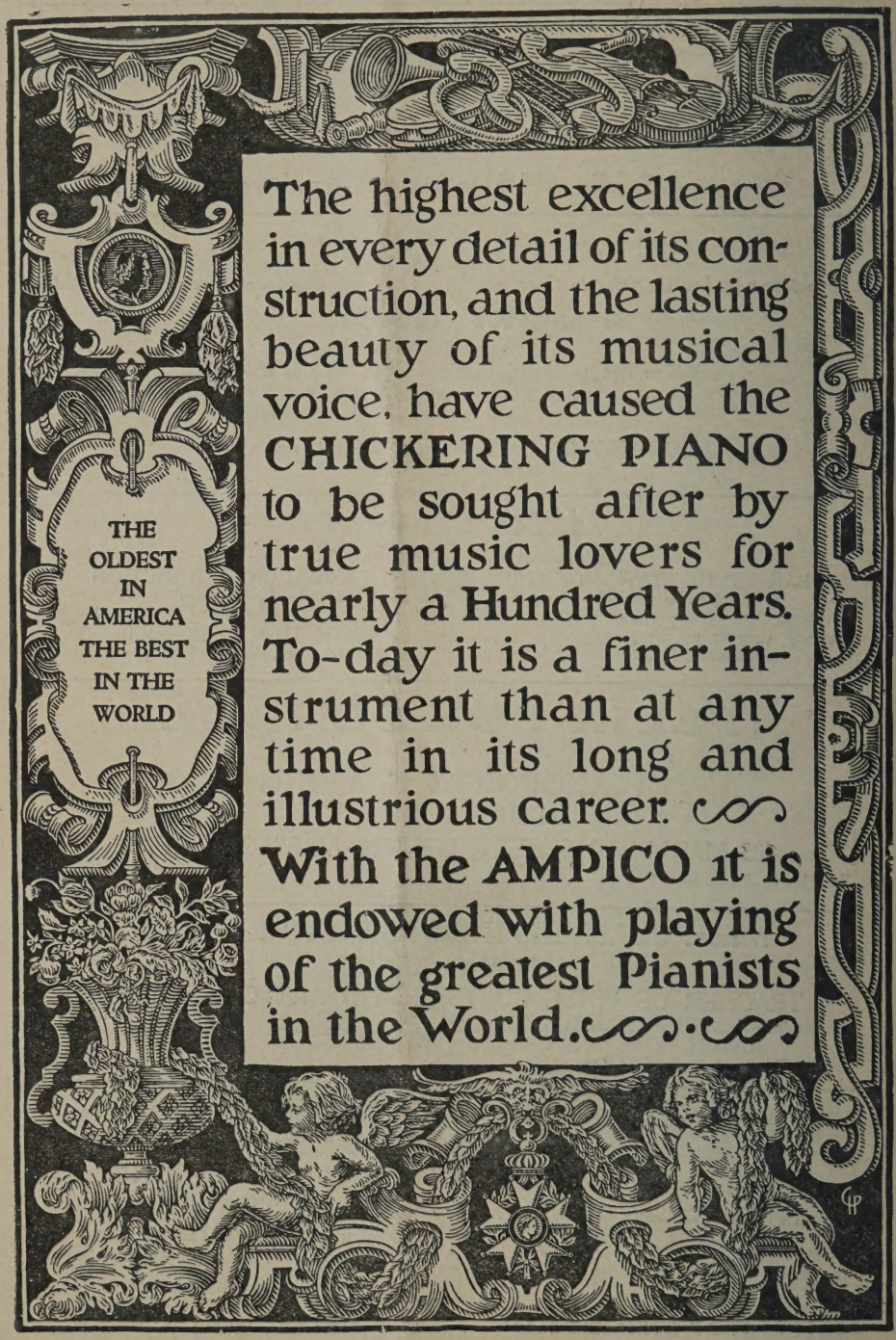
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